

035-0210-013

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only -

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections**1. Name**

historic Arkansas City Commercial Center Historic District

and/or common N/A

2. Location

street & number Summit Street and Fifth Avenue

N/A not for publication

city, town Arkansas City N/A vicinity of

state Kansas code 20 county Cowley code 035

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple Owners

street & number

city, town _____ vicinity of _____ state _____

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Deeds

street & number Cowley County Court House

city, town Winfield state Kansas 67156

6. Representation in Existing Surveystitle N/A has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ nodate N/A ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records N/A

city, town N/A state _____

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

Arkansas City, the largest town in Cowley County, Kansas, is located just north of the Oklahoma border on the Arkansas River. The Arkansas City Commercial Center Historic District consists of five blocks along the main route through the town, Summit Street, which runs north to south, and two small extensions on the main east-west street, Fifth Avenue. The district is made up predominantly of two and three story commercial structures of stone or brick dating from the 1880's, the time of Ark City's greatest development, and buildings from the early 1900's, the time of a secondary boost to the City's growth. The district is anchored north and south by two outstanding buildings. At the north end of the area is the Gladstone (Elmo) Hotel, important historically as the oldest standing hotel in the town, built in 1886. At the south end of the district is the Syndicate Building, also dating from 1886 with important architectural detailing including molded brick and cast iron trim. Both structures were built by prominent south Kansas architect W. A. Ritchie.

ADDITIONAL DESCRIPTIVE INFORMATION

Arkansas City is situated on a hill above the Arkansas and Walnut Rivers which flow to its west and east respectively. The town is laid out on a north-south axis.

Arkansas City was established in 1870 and grew rapidly in its first five years. However the one and two story early frame buildings were replaced predominantly in the 1880's by more substantial stone and brick buildings, many with elaborate cast iron trim. The town is characterized by wide streets, often part of the appearance of western communities. There is also a preponderance of stone construction, either of entire stone buildings or buildings with stone side and rear walls with brick or cast iron street facades. Most of these stone structures date from 1880's or early 1890's. Those that are entirely of stone construction have facades with regularly cut rock faced blocks with rhythmically repeated rectangular or arched windows. The brick structures of the late 19th century are generally decorated with either molded or standard brick corbeling, cast iron trim and arched openings.

Like most town centers in the late 20th century, the historic district of Arkansas City has new elements out of keeping with the character of the town as established in the 19th century. These "intrusive" structures are fairly scattered through the district but are somewhat more concentrated at its extremities. Also scattered through the district are several outstanding buildings which appear to be eligible individually for National Register listing. Among them are the two anchor buildings already mentioned: the Gladstone Hotel and the Syndicate Building. Other key buildings are the Union State Bank, built in 1883, the Summit Block, a stone structure with an elaborate cast iron front built in 1886, and the Ranney Davis Building dating from 1888 on West Fifth Avenue.

In 1914 there was an oil boom in Arkansas City and a resultant group of early 20th century commercial structures. These buildings include the structure at 205 West Fifth Street, built in 1915, Newman's Department Store, 1917, the rebuilding of the Home National Bank in 1918 and the Osage Hotel built in 1920.

ARKANSAS CITY COMMERCIAL CENTER HISTORIC DISTRICT

#7 Additional Descriptive Information, Page 3

Inventory of Buildings

1. Gladstone Hotel--201 N. Summit. Key Building. 035-0210-001 (c)
Stone construction, three and one half stories, five bays by 13 bays. Built in 1886 by W.A. Ritchie, architect.
Owner: Mayne L. Calder
c/o Home National Bank
Arkansas City, Kansas 67005
2. Turner's Radiator and Air Conditioning Service--126 N. Summit. Contributing Building. 035-0210-014 (c)
One story garage; stepped parapet gabled roof. Brick construction. Built ca. 1915.
Owner: Frank G. Turner
126 N. Summit
Arkansas City, Kansas 67005
3. 122 N. Summit. Contributing Building. 035-0210-015 (c)
Two story brick commercial vernacular building. ca. 1915. Stepped parapet at top with corbeled brick trim.
Owner: Keith W. Hearne c/o Osage Cleaners
122 N. Summit
Arkansas City, Kansas 67005
4. 118-120 N. Summit. Contributing Building. 035-0210-016 (c)
Two story brick garage type structure; commercial vernacular style of the early 20th century; stepped parapet at top. Built ca. 1915.
Owner: Ben Wineinger
Rte 3, Box 266G
Arkansas City, Kansas 67005
5. 114-116 N. Summit. Contributing Building. 035-0210-017 (c)
Two story five bay buff brick structure with corbeled trim. Decorative elements include cast eagles set on the top front corners of the building. Built C. 1915.
Owner: Lyle W. Keefe
112 N. Summit
Arkansas City, Kansas 67005
6. 112 N. Summit. Contributing Building. 035-0210-018 (c)
One story early 20th century commercial vernacular structure with modern face.
Owner: Jerry Knox
1525 First
Barnhart, Mo. 63012

ARKANSAS CITY COMMERCIAL CENTER HISTORIC DISTRICT

#7 Additional Descriptive Information, Page 4

Inventory of Buildings

7. 108-110 N. Summit. Contributing Building. 035-0210-019 (c)
Two story, three bay brick early 20th century garage type structure with corbeled trim and plain parapet top. Built ca. 1915.
Owner: A. Vance Day
PO Box 734
Arkansas City, Kansas 67005
8. 106 N. Summit. Contributing Building. 035-0210-020 (c)
One story brick early 20th century commercial vernacular structure.
Owner: Roy H. Adcock
PO Box 54377
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74155
9. Osage Hotel. 100 N. Summit. Contributing Building. 035-0210-021 (c)
Five story eight bay by six bay brick hotel; first story finished with cast stone; brick and stone corbeling. Built in 1920 with Art Deco and neoclassical stylistic elements.
Owner: Osage Plaza, Inc.
c/o E.B. Culbeck, Jr.
PO Box 302
Wichita, Kansas 67005
10. 100 S. Summit. Contributing Building. 035-0210-022 (c)
Four bay by seven bay brick two story building with cast stone trim. Built ca. 1920 with neoclassical stylistic elements.
Owner: Hester May Bryant
c/o Bryant Hardware Co.
Arkansas City, Kansas 67005
11. 104 S. Summit. Contributing Building. 035-0210-023 (c)
Two story brick commercial vernacular building dating from the early 20th century. Stepped parapet top.
Owner: V.L. Bryant
102-104 S. Summit Ave.
Arkansas City, Kansas 67005
12. 106 S. Summit. Non-contributing Building. 035-0210-0002 (nc)
Modern one story concrete block structure with stone facade.
Owner: Charles W. Thoma Associates
PO Box 50
Arkansas City, Kansas 67005

ARKANSAS CITY COMMERCIAL CENTER HISTORIC DISTRICT

#7 Additional Descriptive Information, Page 5

Inventory of Buildings

13. 108 S. Summit. Non-contributing. (NC)
Vacant lot.
Owner: City of Arkansas City
c/o City Clerk
Arkansas City, Kansas 67005
14. 112-114 S. Summit. Contributing. 035-0210-024 (c)
Buff brick two story, nine bay structure with pedimented parapet roof. Built ca. 1925.
Owner: Commonwealth Theatres, Inc.
c/o David Krause
215 W. 18th
Kansas City, Mo. 64108
15. 116-118 S. Summit. Contributing Building. 035-0210-025 (c)
Two story, three bay buff brick building with cast stone trim. Neoclassical decorative elements. Tablet identifying the building as the Burford Theatre. Built ca. 1925.
Owner: Commonwealth Theatres, Inc.
c/o David Krause
215 W. 18th
Kansas City, Mo. 64108
16. 120 South Summit. Contributing Building. 035-0210-026 (c)
Two story, three bay brick structure with stuccoed facade and terra cotta trim. First story storefront and roof canopy date from the late 20th century. Building appears to date from the 1920's.
Owner: Joseph K. Ranney
PO Box 877
Arkansas City, Kansas 67005
17. 122 S. Summit. Non-contributing Building. 035-0210-0068 (NC)
One story modern addition to the Home National Bank.
Owner: Home National Bank
126 South Summit
Arkansas City, Kansas 67005
18. Home National Bank--126 S. Summit. Contributing Building. 035-0210-027 (c)
Neoclassical revival structure of carthage stone. Accented by (Greek) doric columns along principal facades. Rebuilt 1918. Original construction, 1888.
Owner: Home National Bank
126 S. Summit
Arkansas City, Kansas 67005

ARKANSAS CITY COMMERCIAL CENTER HISTORIC DISTRICT

#7 Additional Descriptive Information, Page 6

Inventory of Buildings

19. Howard Block--200 S. Summit. Contributing Building. 035-0210-028 (c)
Two story brick commercial vernacular structure with corbeled trim and projecting brick pilasters at regular intervals along the principal facades. Dated 1931.
Owner: Howard Investment Co.
c/o William Howard
Box 49
Arkansas City, Kansas 67005
20. Beekman Building--204 S. Summit. Contributing Building. 035-0210-029 (c)
Two story cast stone commercial structure with mansard roof.
Built ca. 1930.
Owner: Leila Beekman (trust)
1201 NW 19th
Oklahoma City, Ok. 73106
21. Zadie Building--208 S. Summit. Contributing Building. 035-0210-030 (c)
Two story brick commercial structure with cast stone trim; modern store fronts added. Neoclassical trim elements such as quoins and keystones.
ca. 1920.
Owner: Litwins, Inc.
PO Box 830
Ft. Scott, Kansas 66701
22. 214 S. Summit. Contributing Building. 035-0210-031 (c)
Early 20th century commercial vernacular structure of buff brick, nine bays wide with stepped parapet top. Arched windows at second floor.
Ca. 1920.
Owner: Arkansas City American Legion Housing Corp.
214 S. Summit, Box 641
Arkansas City, Kansas 67005
23. 220 S. Summit. Contributing Building. 035-0210-032 (c)
Three story buff brick early 20th century commercial vernacular building.
Owner: William E. Burton
220 S. Summit
Arkansas City, Kansas 67005
24. 224 S. Summit. Contributing Building. 035-0210-033 (c)
Two story early 20th century commercial vernacular with simple corbeled brick trim. Ca. 1920.
Owner: Geralee Howard
300 Highland
Arkansas City, Kansas 67005

ARKANSAS CITY COMMERCIAL CENTER HISTORIC DISTRICT

#7 Additional Descriptive Information, Page 7

Inventory of Buildings

25. 226 South Summit. Contributing Building. 035-0210-034 (C)
Three story stone building with altered first story store front;
rock-faced cut stone with arched window heads. Ca. 1890.
Owner: Geralee Howard
300 Highland Ave.
Arkansas City, Kansas 67005
26. 300 S. Summit. Contributing Building. 035-0210-035 (C)
Two story brick building with segmentally arched window heads and
corbeled trim. Ca. 1900.
Owner: James F. Munson
Munson Austin Agency
113 East Washington
Arkansas City, Kansas 67005
27. 304 S. Summit. Non-contributing Building. 035-0210-0069 (NC)
Modern one story office building.
Owner: Kansas Gas and Electric Co.
K.G.&E. Building
Wichita, Kansas
28. 310 S. Summit. Contributing Building 035-0210-036 (C)
Three story, seven bay stone building with rock-faced cut stone
facade. Segmentally and round arched window heads; Original cast iron trim
at first story. Ca. 1880's. Pediment above cornice removed.
Owner: Robert K. Niles
310 S. Summit
Arkansas City, Kansas 67005
29. Summit Block--312-322 S. Summit. Key Building. 035-0210-004 (C)
Stone two story building with elaborate cast iron facade and pair
of decorated cast iron pediments. Built 1886.
Owner: James E. Fisher, Jr.
8242 Limerick
Wichita, Kansas 67206
30. 324 S. Summit. Non-contributing Building. 035-0210-0070 (NC)
One story brick commercial building. 20th century.
Owner: Elliott and Leon Davis, c/o Davis Bros.
Suite 500, Mc Farlin Bldg.
Tulsa, Ok 74103

ARKANSAS CITY COMMERCIAL CENTER HISTORIC DISTRICT

#7 Additional Descriptive Information, page 8

Inventory of Buildings

31. 326 S. Summit. Non-contributing Building. 035-0210-0071 (NC)
20th century one story brick commercial building.
Owner: Elliott and Leon Davis, C/O Davis Bros.
Suite 500, Mc Farlin Building
Tulsa, Ok 74103
32. Newmans Department Store--400-406 S. Summit. Contributing Building. 035-0210-0 (c)
Five story stucco-covered reinforced concrete building with hexagonal columns between bays and early art deco trim elements. Built 1917.
Owner: Newman Investment Co.
400-406 S. Summit
Arkansas City, Kansas 67005
33. 408 S. Summit. Contributes. 035-0210-038 (c)
One story brick commercial vernacular building dating from the early 20th century. Corbeled brick trim.
Owner: B.D. Fildes
Box 1163
Arkansas City, Kansas 67005
34. 410 S. Summit. Contributes. 035-0210-039 (c)
Small one story commercial vernacular structure with corbeled trim and a pedimented parapet.
Owner: Bill Hess
412 S. Summit
Arkansas City, Kansas 67005
35. 412 S. Summit. Contributing Building. 035-0210-040 (c)
Reinforced concrete automotive garage with arched roof. Ca. 1920.
Owner: Bill Fildes Motor Co. Inc.
3021 N. Summit
Arkansas City, Kansas 67005
36. Syndicate Block--421-427 S. Summit. Key Building. 035-0210-041 (c)
Two story brick building highly decorated with corbeling, black brick trim and combinations of round, segmental and horse shoe arches. Cast iron ornamentation. Designed by W.A. Ritchie and built in 1886.
Owners: Lou Shanks Michael J. Bellis
Rte 3, Box 266zz PO Box 1073
Arkansas City, Kansas 67005 Arkansas City, Kansas 67005

ARKANSAS CITY COMMERCIAL CENTER HISTORIC DISTRICT

#7 Additional Descriptive Information, Page 9

Inventory of Buildings

37. 329 S. Summit. Contributes. 035-0210-042 (c)
Three story brick building with neoclassical architectural features and art deco influences. Elements include accented window heads, brick pilasters and color contrasted bricks. Modern first story store front. Ca. 1920.
Owner: City of Arkansas City
c/o City Clerk
Arkansas City, Kansas 67005
38. 325 S. Summit. Contributes. 035-0210-043 (c)
Two story four bay brick building with neoclassically inspired elements including corbeled quoins and keystones over the windows. Ca. 1920.
Owner: Roger Sparks
Rte 4
Arkansas City, Kansas 67005
39. 317 S. Summit. Non-Contributing Building. 035-0210-0072 (nc)
Two story modern facade, possibly covering older building.
Owner: Dollie Shields
317 W. Central
Arkansas City, Kansas 67005
40. 313 S. Summit. Contributing Building. 035-0210-044 (c)
Two story three bay building with stuccoed facade and terra cotta trim. Tile Roof. Ca. 1925.
Owner: Roger Sparks
Rte 4
Arkansas City, Kansas 67005
41. 311 S. Summit. Non-contributing building. 035-0210-0073 (nc)
One story modern store.
Owner: C. Douglas Wright
311 S. Summit
Arkansas City, Kansas 67005
42. 307-309 S. Summit. Contributes. 035-0210-045 (c)
Two story brick building with corbeled trim and modillioned cornice. Dated 1910.
Owners: Harold R. Whittle Beulah Xidis
1917 E. 12th 8220 Maple
Winfield, Kansas 67156 Wichita, Kansas 67209

ARKANSAS CITY COMMERCIAL CENTER HISTORIC DISTRICT

#7. Additonal Descriptive Information, Page 10

Inventory of Buildings

43. 305 S. Summit. Non-contributing Building. 035-0210-0074 (NC)
Modern screen front, possibly over older structure.
Owner: Oral F. Cover
1422 N. A
Arkansas City, Kansas 67005
44. 301-303 S. Summit. Contributing Building. 035-0210-005 (C)
Crescent Building. Two story brick building with elaborate molded and corbeled brick ornamentation. Arched first story windows. Pediment and corner tower. Dated 1905.
Owner: Milford C. Vining
c/o Union State Bank
Arkansas City, Kansas. 67005
45. 227 S. Summit. Contributing Building. 035-0210-012 (C)
Three story building of local stone with rock-faced finish at main elevations. Alternating narrow and wide courses. Arched openings at first and third stories which are reminiscent of Louis Sullivan. Round corner tower. Windows and cornice covered with modern sheeting. Ca. 1880's.
Owner: Betty J. Sylorant
227 S. Summit
Arkansas City, Kansas 67005
46. 223-225 S. Summit. Contributing Building. 035-0210-046 (C)
Two story building of local stone with rock-faced finish at main elevation. Alternating narrow and wide coursing. Ca. 1895..
Owner: John Baldwin
9925 La Honton
Boise, Idaho 83709
47. 219-221 S. Summit. Contributing Building. 035-0210-047 (C)
Two story yellow brick commercial vernacular building. ca. 1920.
Owner: Beatrice Wright
Crestwood
Arkansas City, Kansas 67005
48. 211-215 S. Summit. Non-contributing Building. 035-0210-0075 (NC)
Modern one story store.
Owner: Warren Realty Co.
51 Stoneridge
Ponca City, Oklahoma 74601

ARKANSAS CITY COMMERCIAL CENTER HISTORIC DISTRICT

#7 Additional descriptive Information, page 11

Inventory of Buildings

49. 209 S. Summit. Contributing Building. 035-0210-048 (c)
Two story brick early 20th century commercial vernacular building with corbeled trim and modern store front.
Owner: Iverson & Iverson
Box 1065
Arkansas City, Ks. 67005
50. 207 S. Summit. Non-Contributing Building. 035-0210-0076 (nc)
Modern store front, possibly over older structure.
Owner: Robert L. Morford
400 N. Stevens
Ponca City, Oklahoma 74601
51. 205 S. Summit. Contributing Building. 035-0210-049 (c)
One story brick early 20th century commercial vernacular building.
Owner: Jolene L. Iverson
400 N. B.
Arkansas City, Kansas 67005
52. 203 S. Summit.. Contributing Building. 035-0210-050 (c)
Two story brick early 20th century commercial vernacular building with corbeled trim and stepped parapet top.
Owner: Kelly-Gray, Inc.
203 S. Summit
Arkansas City, Kansas 67005
53. 201 S. Summit. Contributing Building. 035-0210-051 (c)
Two story commercial vernacular building dating from the early 20th century. Brick construction with corbeled trim and a stepped parapet top.
Owner: Daniel D. Walker Janet M. Bremner Co-owner
PO Box 324
Arkansas City, Kansas 67005
54. 127 S. Summit. Key Building. 035-0210-052 (c)
Union State Bank, formerly First National Bank. Two story brick building, three bays by seven bays with round arched windows at the first floor and segmentally arched windows at the second floor. Round corner tower with bell shaped roof. Elaborate cornice. Italianate stylistic elements. Dated 1883.
Owner: Union State Bank
119 S. Summit
Arkansas City, Kansas 67005

ARKANSAS CITY COMMERCIAL CENTER HISTORIC DISTRICT

#7 Additional Discriptive Information, Page 12
Inventory of Buildings

55. 125 S. Summit. Key Building. 035-0210-053 (c)
Two story brick building; triple arched palladian type window at the second story. Elaborate cornice. Italianate stylistic elements. Built ca. 1883.
Owner: Union State Bank
119 South Summit
Arkansas City, Kansas 67005
56. 121-123 S. Summit. Contributing Building. 035-0210-054 (c)
Two story brick commercial vernacular building with a corbeled brick cornice. Dated 1910.
Owner: Union State Bank
119 S. Summit
Arkansas City, Kansas 67005
57. 119 S. Summit. Contributing Building. 035-0210-055 (c)
Two story building of reinforced concrete. Arched windows at second story. Built ca. 1920.
Owner: Union State Bank
119 S. Summit
Arkansas City, Kansas 67005
58. 117 S. Summit. Contributing Building. 035-0210-056 (c)
One story building of cut local stone with a rock-faced finish. multiple small arches trim the cornice.
Owner: Jesse A. Kindred
117 S. Summit
Arkansas City, Kansas 67005
59. 115 S. Summit. Contributing Building. 035-0210-057 (c)
One story building with stuccoed facade; yellow brick and terra cotta trim. Ca. 1920's.
Owner: James W. Hutchens
1804 N. A
Arkansas City, Kansas 67005
60. 113 S. Summit. Non-contributing Building. 035-0210-0077 (nc)
One story with modern facade.
Owner: Loren W. Grimes
RR 3
Arkansas City, Kansas 67005

ARKANSAS CITY COMMERCIAL CENTER HISTORIC DISTRICT

#7 Additional Descriptive Information, Page 13

Inventory of Buildings

61. 111 S. Summit. Non-contributing Building. 035-0210-0078
Modern one story commercial building. (NC)
Owner: Luther H. Parman
422 N. Summit
Arkansas City, Kansas 67005
62. 103 S. Summit. Non-contributing Building. 035-0210-0079
Modern one story commercial building. (NC)
Owner: Anna H. Parman
c/o Home National Bank Trust Dept.
PO Box 1047
Arkansas City, Kansas 67005
63. 101 S. Summit. Non-contributing Building. 035-0210-0080
One story brick commercial vernacular building. (NC)
Owner: Joseph K. Ranney
PO Box 877
Arkansas City, Kansas 67005
64. 109 W. Fifth Ave. Contributing Building. 035-0210-009 (C)
Two story brick Italianate building with arched windows and elaborate cornice. Dated 1887, Matlack Building.
Owner: Daniel D. Walker, PO Box 324, Arkansas City, Kansas 67005
65. 113-115 W. Fifth Ave. Non-contributing. (NC)
Vacant lot.
Owner: City of Arkansas City
Arkansas City, Kansas 67005
65. 117-119 W. Fifth Ave. Contributing Building. 035-0210-058 (C)
Two story brick commercial vernacular, ca 1900.
Owner: ~~City of Arkansas City~~ William R. Howard, Mgr.
~~Arkansas City, Kansas 67005~~ Howard Brother Investment Co.
Union State Bank Building
Arkansas City
66. 121 W. Fifth Ave. Contributing Building 035-0210-059
One story stuccoed building with terra cotta trim. Ca. 1920's. (C)
Owner: ~~City of Arkansas City~~ Ted M. Tempelar
~~Arkansas City, Kansas 67005~~ Attorney at Law

ARKANSAS CITY COMMERCIAL CENTER HISTORIC DISTRICT

#7 Additional Descriptive Information, Page 14

Inventory of Buildings

67. 201 West Fifth. Contributing Building. 035-0210-060 (c)
Two story brick early 20th century commercial building with elaborate cornice. Ca. 1900.
Owner: Odd Fellows Lodge
c/o Aubrey Foster
408 N. B
Arkansas City, Kansas 67005
68. 205 W. Fifth. Contributing Building. 035-0210-061 (c)
Three story commercial vernacular with parapet top. Brick construction. Built 1915. Identified by tablet marked Oldroyd.
Owner: Aubrey C. Foster
210 West Fifth
Arkansas City, Kansas 67005
69. 217 W. Fifth. Contributing Building. 035-0210-062 (c)
Carnegie public library. Built 1907
Owner: Cowley County Community College
Arkansas City, Kansas 67005
70. 207 W. Fifth. Contributing Building. 035-0210-063 (c)
Two story early 20th century stone building.
Owner: Aubrey Foster
Foster Furniture
210 West Fifth
Arkansas City, Kansas 67005
71. 200 W. Fifth. Key Building. 035-0210-064 (c)
Three story stone warehouse built of local stone with rock-faced finish. West section of the building dates from 1888. East section an addition from ca. 1900.
Owner: Aubrey C. Foster
c/o Foster Furniture
210 West Fifth
Arkansas City, Kansas 67005
72. 120 W. Fifth. Non-Contributing Building. 035-0210-0081 (nc)
Two story commercial vernacular building dating from the early 20th century. First and second stories altered.
Owner: James C. Bates
Rte 4, Box 88
Arkansas City, Kansas 67005

ARKANSAS CITY COMMERCIAL CENTER HISTORIC DISTRICT

#7 Additional Descriptive Information, page 15

Inventory of Buildings

73. 112-114 W. Fifth Ave. Contributing Building *035-0210-065* (c)
Arkansas City Office Building; built 1929. Five story buff brick
structure built in the Art Deco style.

Owner: James C. Bates
Rte 4, Box 88
Arkansas City, Kansas 67005

120
73. ~~112~~ East Fifth Ave. *035-0210-066* (c)
Public Library. Built as Post Office in 1914. Two story
Brick, neoclassical building with columns across the front.

Owner: City of Arkansas City
Arkansas City, Kansas. 67005

74. 113 East fifth. Non-contributing.
Vacant lot.

Owner: James W. & Lawson Miller (NC)
201 So. A.
Arkansas City, Kansas. 67005

75. 117 East Fifth Contributing. *035-0210-067* (c)
Two story stone building with arched second story windows.
Former Windsor Hotel. Built 1889.

Owner: James W. & Lawson Miller
201 So. A.
Arkansas City, Kansas 67005

{ reviewed as not
contributing }

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1880's-90's, 1910's Builder/Architect N/A

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Arkansas City Commercial Center Historic District is significant as representing two important periods of the town's history in the 1880's and early 1890's and the early 20th century. The district is worthy of recognition beyond the local realm for its association with an event of national significance, the Cherokee Strip Run of September 16, 1893. As one of the few gateways for the start of this run, Arkansas City played an integral role in the settlement of the Cherokee Strip which is seen by many historians as marking the close of the American frontier. For years before the federal government opened the Cherokee strip, there had been speculation about its availability for settlement. Anticipating the Run, would-be settlers moved to Arkansas City, swelling its population and adding to the boom atmosphere which had begun a few years earlier when depots were established by five railroad companies. The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe came to Arkansas City in 1879, followed by the Kansas Southwestern, the Missouri Pacific, the Midland Valley and the St. Louis and San Francisco. Arkansas City's architecture reflects its perception of itself as a growing, prosperous city. A second boom precipitated by the discovery of oil in the area in 1914 brought about another surge of development in the town so that today Arkansas City's appearance illustrates the two main historical growth periods. The district as a whole is significant because it includes the historic commercial and civic center and represents important developments in the growth of Arkansas City. Individual buildings, however, may be characterized as mostly versions of the Italianate and Queen Anne commercial styles, early 20th century commercial vernacular and neoclassical styles. In general the buildings have an air of exuberance in their architectural expression. In particular, the 1880's structures are stylishly built with local stone as the favored building material. Many of the grander buildings of the 1880's were the work of W.A. Ritchie and Company, prominent architects of the time in southern Kansas.

Additional Information

Arkansas City was laid out in 1870 and was first called Adelphi, then Walnut City, then Creswell and finally Arkansas City under which name it was incorporated in 1872. During these early years the town consisted of a cluster of wooden shops and houses. The 1939 Kansas Guide to the Sunflower State mentioned that "The community in these years was a rendezvous for horse thieves who stole stock from settlers in Kansas and drove the animals into Oklahoma. 'Buffalo Bill', the US Marshal made the vicinity his headquarters during the early 1870's."

The character that Arkansas City imparts today is essentially that which it took on in the 1880's after the railroads came, combined with the influence of the early 20th century oil boom. The town in the 1880's began to grow very rapidly. By 1882 the population was 1,300; in 1884 it was 2,800 and by 1886, 5,000. In 1893 the population was 9,264. The city lost almost 2,000 people in 1894 due to the land rush. During the decade of the 1880's, four hotels were built, a canal was established between the two rivers to give water power and a large elaborate opera house was built. Clearly the town saw itself as a growing metropolis.

When the federal government opened the Oklahoma territory for settlement in 1889, and the narrow stretch of land along the Kansas border known as the Cherokee Strip in 1893, a great

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rush of humanity burst forth to take up the land. Settlers in the West had experienced hard times in the late 1880's from drought, crop failures and economic depression. Many had lost their farms through mortgage foreclosures and saw the land in Oklahoma and the Cherokee Strip as an opportunity for a fresh start. Hoping for the official opening of these lands, they crowded along the border awaiting the chance to stake a claim. Taken in the context of the economic and political climate of the 1890's, the Cherokee Strip Run and the role that Arkansas City played in the event take on national significance. Conversely, the Cherokee Strip Run played an integral part in shaping the character and appearance of Arkansas City.

The architectural expression of the buildings in the commercial area reflects the mood of the community at the time they were built. Three of the most prominent buildings in the district, the Gladstone Hotel (individually nominated to the National Register of Historic Places), the Syndicate Block and the First National Bank (now the Union State Bank) were designed along with some other buildings in the town by W.A. Ritchie and Co., a prominent architectural firm in southern Kansas. Brothers W.A. and W.J. Ritchie were the principals of this firm which for a time was headquartered in Winfield, Arkansas City and Wichita. The Ritchie buildings stand out as not only stylish but the most flamboyant in Arkansas City. The Gladstone had galleries of delicate cast iron work at each of its four stories; the First National Bank building has an unusual round corner tower with a bell shaped roof; the Syndicate Block has creative repeated arches of round, elliptical and horseshoe forms in walls embellished with corbels and red and black bricks.

The population figures for Arkansas City corroborate the development of the city as outlined above with primary and secondary growth periods occurring respectively in the late 1880's and early 1900's. Since 1893 when the population was almost 9,300, the growth of Arkansas City slackened and became stable. By 1950 the population was 13,616. In the 1980 census the population was 13,201. The rapid growth between 1884 and 1893 is evidenced in Arkansas City architecture, the main indicator of a community's view of itself.

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Paula Reed, March 9, 1983.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION AND JUSTIFICATION

The district consists of five main commercial blocks along Summit Street and two and a half blocks of Fifth Avenue in the vicinity of Summit Street. The boundaries were chosen to include the main commercial core of Arkansas City with their limits defined by the location of key or particularly significant buildings. Generally, the boundaries follow the property lines of the buildings facing onto Summit Street and Fifth Avenue with the exception of the west side of the 100 block of North Summit which has been eliminated from the district since most of the structures there do not contribute to the district. At the south end of the district, the west side of the 400 block of South Summit, except for the Syndicate Block, a key building, has been eliminated from the district.

The district's boundaries are described as follows: beginning at a point at the north-west corner of the Gladstone (Elmo) Hotel property, 201-203 North Summit, and following its north property line to its northeast corner; then continuing in a straight line across North Summit Street to a point on the east curb line; then south along the east curb line across East Chestnut Avenue to a point on the south curb line of East Chestnut Avenue; then east along the south curb line to a point opposite the rear (east) property line of the property located at 124 North Summit Street; then turning south and following the rear property lines of the lots facing onto Summit Street across East Central Avenue and continuing south to a point opposite the rear property line of the Public Library located at 110 East Fifth Avenue then turning east along said rear property line to the east property line of the Library; then turning south and following the east property line to its end; then across East Fifth Avenue to the east property line of the former Winsdor Hotel at 115-117 East Fifth Avenue; then following that line to the south property line of the same lot; then turning west and following the south property line and continuing to and across the an alley way to the north end of the rear property line of 210 South Summit Street; then turning south and following the rear property lines of the lots facing onto South Summit Street to the South property line of 414 South Summit Street; then turning west and following said property line to its west end; then continuing west to the east curb line of South Summit Street; then turning south along the east curb line to the north curb line of East Jefferson Street; then turning west across South Summit Street to the north curb line of West Jefferson Street and continuing west to a point opposite the rear property line of 427 South Summit; then turning north along said rear (west) property line to its intersection with the north property line of 421 South Summit; then turning east along said north property line and following it to its east end; then continuing east to a point on the west curb line of South Summit Street; then turning north along the west curb line and continuing to and across West Adams Avenue to its north curb line; then turning to the west and following the north curb line to a point opposite the rear property line of 329 South Summit Street; then turning to the north and following the rear property lines of the lots facing onto South Summit Street to and across West Washington Avenue and continuing to the south property line of 209 South Summit; then turning west across the alley way to the northeast corner of the property located at 210 South First Street; then following its north property line to its west end and continuing in a north-westerly direction across South First Street to the southeast corner of 201-203 West Fifth Avenue; then continuing west along the south property line of it and adjoining properties to an alley; then continuing across the alley in a southwesterly direction to the southeast corner of the former Carnegie Public Library property; then following the south property

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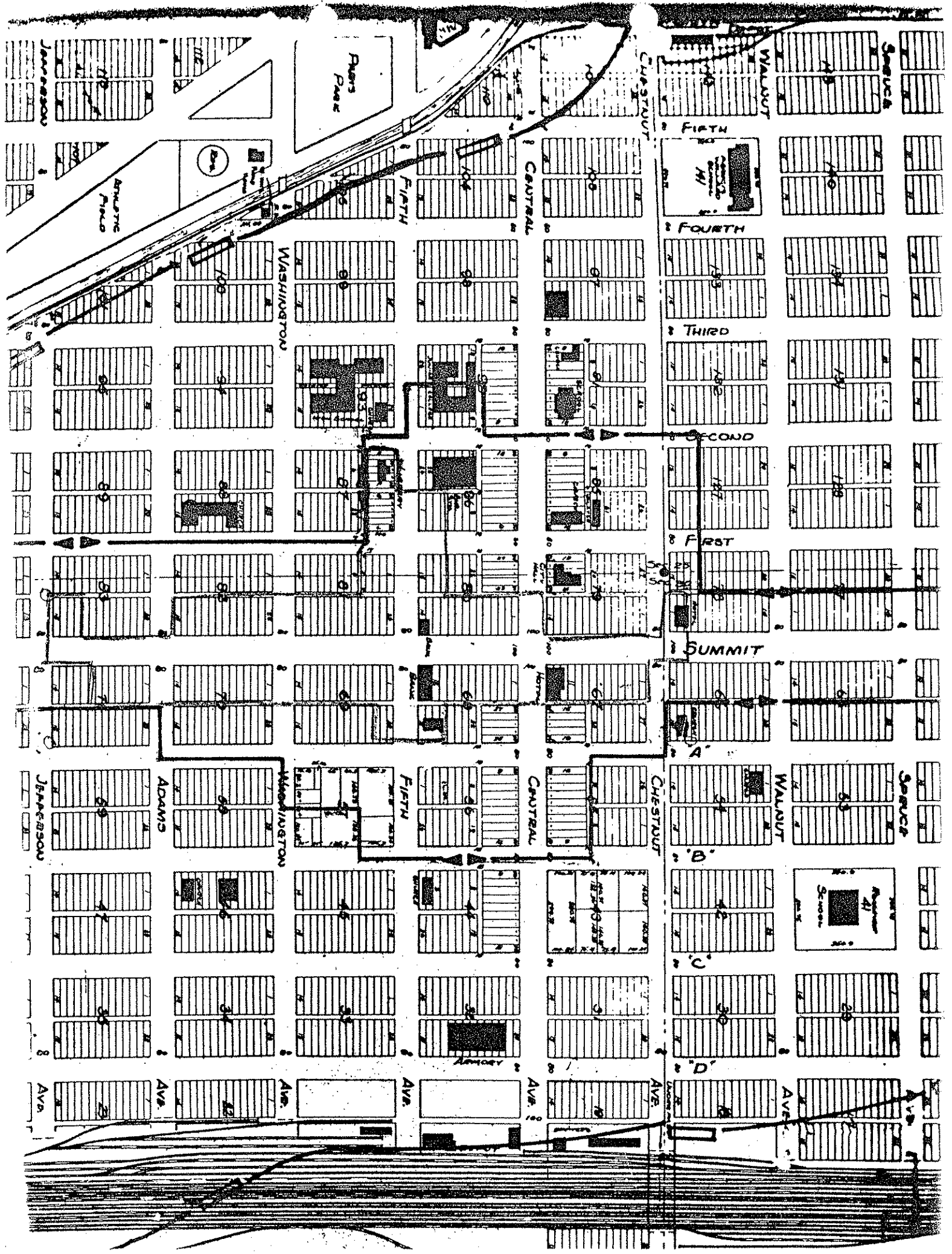
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line of the said Carnegie Library to its southwest corner; then turning north and following the west property line to its northwest corner; then turning east and following the property to its northeast corner; then turning north across West Fifth Avenue along the west property line of 208 West Fifth Avenue to the southwest corner of the property located at 117 South First Street; then turning east along said property line to its end and continuing across South First Street and along the north property line of 114 South First Street to an alley; and continuing across the alley to the rear property lines of the building along the west side of Summit Street; then turning north and following said rear property lines to West Central Avenue; then continuing north across West Central to its north curb line; then turning to the east along the north curb line to the west curb line of North Summit Street; then turning north and following the west curb line to and across West Chestnut Avenue to the north curb line of West Chestnut Avenue; then turning west and following the north curb line to a point opposite the rear property line of the Gladstone (Elmo) Hotel; then turning north and following the said rear property line to the place of beginning.



9. Major Bibliographical References

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property approximately 21

Quadrangle name Arkansas City

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

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Verbal boundary description and justification

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paula Stoner Reed, Vice President

organization Preservation Associates, Inc.

date June 20, 1983

street & number P.O. Box 100

telephone (301) 791-7880

city or town Sharpsburg

state Maryland

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

☐ national ☒ state ☐ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title Executive Director, Kansas State Historical Society

date September 7, 1983

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

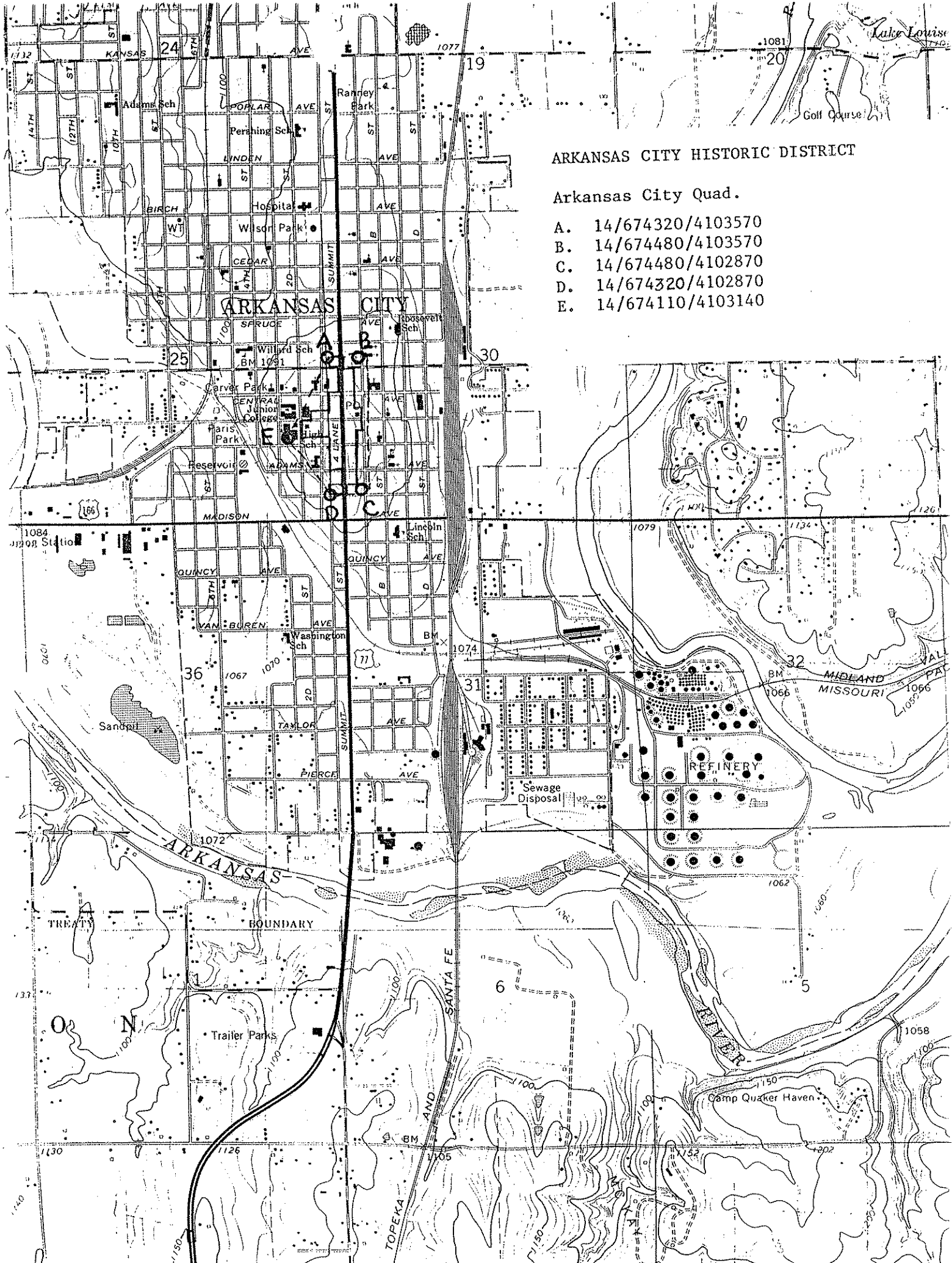
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Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration



ARKANSAS CITY HISTORIC DISTRICT

Arkansas City Quad.

- A. 14/674320/4103570
- B. 14/674480/4103570
- C. 14/674480/4102870
- D. 14/674320/4102870
- E. 14/674110/4103140